

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1183

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS HERMOSILLO 050

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX, US

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTS ON EXCHANGE OF SANCTIONS TREATY
IMPLEMENTATION

1. HERMOSILLO DAILY EL SONORENSE ON FRIDAY

FEBRUARY

18 PROMINENTLY FEATURED WASHINGTON D.C. DATELINED STORY
OF FEBRUARY 17 ATTRIBUTED TO CIMEX WIRE SERVICE. EIGHT COLUMN
HEADLINE READS: "PRISONERS WHO WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM
MEXICO TO THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT REMAIN IN PRISON."
THE TEXT OF THE WIRE SERVICE REPORT READS: "WASHINGTON, FEB. 17.
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REVEAL THAT NO LESS THAN 400 U.S.
PRISONERS IN MEXICO WILL BE FREED WHEN THEY RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY,
AS A RESULT OF THEIR EXCHANGE WITH MEXICAN PRISONERS IN UNITED
STATES PRISONS. IT IS SERIOUSLY SPECULATED THAT SOME OF THESE
NORTHAMERICAN PRISONERS COULD EVEN OBTAIN COMPENSATION FOR
DAMAGES AND INJURIES, IT BEING ARGUED THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE
CASES DID NOT FOLLOW DUE PROCESS, AND THAT ACTS COMMITTED
IN MEXICO ARE NOT CRIMES IN THE UNITED STATES. THE TREATY SIGNED BY
THE GOVERNMENTS OF MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES WHICH WILL
GOVERN THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS DOES NOT ESTABLISH CONDITIONS
THAT OBLIGE THE UNITED STATES CITIZEN TO CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THEIR
OWN COUNTRY SENTENCES THAT WERE PRONOUNCED BY MEXICAN JUDGES.
WHILE INCREASING COMMENTS ARE HEARD ABOUT THE PRISONER EXCHANGE
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TREATY WITH MEXICO, PRESIDENT JAMES E. CARTER (SIC) SUBMITTED IT TO
THE SENATE FOR RATIFICATION. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE TREATY, MEXICO
WILL TRANSFER TO UNITED STATES JURISDICTION SOME 600 U.S. CITIZENS
IMPRISONED IN MEXICAN JAILS, AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL
SEND TO MEXICO 1,200 MEXICANS WHO ARE SERVING VARYING
SENTENCES IN YANKEE PRISONS. THE TREATY SPECIFICALLY
ESTABLISHES THAT THE CITIZENS OF EITHER NATION MAY SERVE

THE SENTENCES IN THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. THE 600 U.S. PRISONERS IN MEXICAN JAILS WILL COMPLETE THEIR SENTENCES IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THE MEXICANS IN THOSE OF OUR COUNTRY. IN THE CASE OF THE NORTHAMERICANS, AT LEAST SOME 400 COMMITTED ACTS THAT VIOLATE MEXICAN LAWS, BUT WHICH ARE NOT CRIMES UNDER UNITED STATES LAW. THESE PRISONERS, UPON THEIR TRANSFER TO THEIR COUNTRY, WILL BE SET FREE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS LAWS, AND THEIR ATTORNEYS ARE AT WORK IN THIS CONNECTION AND HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE COMPETENT FEDERAL JUDGES REVIEW THEIR RESPECTIVE CASES."

2. PRESS REPORTS OF THIS NATURE QUICKLY REACH THE AMERICAN PRISONERS IN THE PRISONS HERE. ALTHOUGH ALL HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH COPIES OF THE TEXT OF THE TREATY, AND SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THIS PRESS REPORT IS ALMOST COMPLETELY ERRONEOUS, SOME OF THEM ARE ALL TOO READY TO BELIEVE AGAIN, AS THEY DID ONCE BEFORE, THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TREATY IS TO ENABLE THEM TO OBTAIN THEIR FREEDOM. WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT ANY RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WOULD HAVE MADE THE STATEMENTS REPORTED.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ALLEGATIONS REPORTED IN THE EL SONORENSE ARTICLE SHOULD BE OFFICIALLY DENIED, AND REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE SUCH A CORRECTION WITH THE REQUEST THAT IT BE PUBLISHED BY THE LOCAL PRESS.
SACKSTEDER

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